

# The American Legion

News: Local, State, National

## Veterans Await Action of N. Y. County Committee on Col. Anderson's Case Wednesday Night

## Madison Square Meeting: War Dead Are Honored; Party for Galbraith

All American veterans, whether members of the American Legion or not, will await with interest the outcome of the deliberations of the New York County committee of the Legion when that body meets on Wednesday evening at the Hotel Pennsylvania.

When Colonel A. E. Anderson, of the 68th Regiment and a Legion member, spoke before the "Horror of the Rhine" committee at Madison Square Garden on February 28 there was a spontaneous demand from Legion members that he be called to account officially by the officers of the veterans' organization.

The committee, however, handled the situation carefully and withheld its action until the state executive committee had met, so that the rotating body of the department might be consulted. The state committee discussed the Anderson case fully last Saturday afternoon and decided that while it was unanimous in its condemnation of Anderson's attitude, it was better to leave to the county committee the action to be taken against him.

Resolutions have been passed by more than a score of Legion posts in which Anderson's expulsion from the Legion has been demanded, and they are united in their insistence that he be tried before a Legion investigating committee.

**Real Americanism Not Dead**  
The timely allegation by Von Mach and his supporters that the American Legion was languishing in the affairs of Europe because it refused to countenance pro-German propaganda was torn to shreds on Friday night at the Legion's Madison Square Garden meeting.

The veterans proved they were foursquare for America, without hypheanting, when they decided against the appearance of any speaker in the meeting. As a demonstration of loyalty it is unlikely that the meeting has ever been equaled in this country. The large audience at the appearance of the gold star men and the fact that veterans will live long in the hearts of those who witnessed them.

After the meeting Friday night there was an impressive parade up Fifth Avenue to Thirty-fourth Street, to Broadway and up to Times Square that was second only to the Garden assemblage in enthusiasm. Three thousand veterans, with a band and a drum corps, formed the procession, and when they reached Forty-second Street they stood uncovered while they sang, "The Star-Spangled Banner."

**War Heroes Are Honored**  
Two Legion posts in greater New York experienced their most impressive days yesterday when they held funeral services over the bodies of two men from whom they took their names. The David W. Gentile Post, of the Bronx, was notified early last week that the body of the late David W. Gentile, a member of the post, had arrived with 1,500 others on the transport Somme and arrangements were immediately made for the services. They were held yesterday at Dockrell's funeral chapel, 330 West Avenue, the Bronx, and were conducted by Dr. William H. Kephart, chaplain of the post and pastor of the North New York Congregational Church.

From the chapel the body, on a gun caisson and escorted by Bronx Legionnaires and members of the Junior O. U. A. M., was taken up the Grand Concourse to Mount Hope Cemetery, where a firing squad from Governor's Island paid a final tribute to the hero. Gentile was a member of the old 7th Regiment and was killed on October 14, 1918, during an attack on the La Salle River.

The other war hero for whom services were held was Captain William E. Blaisdell, of the 106th Infantry, the old 14th. He was killed in the Hindenburg line assault on September 23, 1918, after he had returned to the fight, though badly wounded. Dr. S. Edward Young, pastor of the Bedford Presbyterian Church, said in preaching the funeral oration:

"Shall we allow the enemies of all law to despise at home the flag they allowed no man to despise abroad? Shall we permit our intrigues within our own borders to rend us from the Allies, side by side with whom our bravest battled beyond the sea? Our promoted Captain Blaisdell, a little before he went to his last fight, said: 'I don't know whether I shall come through, but if I don't, I can't conceive any finer heritage a man can leave his two sons than to go that way.' A fitting epitaph for all our soldiers slain."

**Theater Party for Galbraith**  
With the joint purpose of honoring Colonel F. W. Galbraith, national commander of the American Legion, and stimulating a patriotic spirit in the theater, the S. Rankin Drew Post will hold American Legion night to-night at the Century Theatre, where the naval spectacle "In the Night Watch" is playing. Among the guests who will attend are Major General Bullard, Rear Admiral Huse, Captain Timmons, Lieutenant Colonel Charles W. Whitely, Major George McMurtry, Lieutenant Sydney G. Gumpertz, Lieutenant John C. Latham, First Sergeant Benjamin Kaufman and Gunnery Sergeant Charles Hoffman.

**Post Activities**  
Fifty wounded veterans from Fox Hills were guests last Thursday night

415-Antique ivory pottery bowl with plate. \$15

WHETHER it is more blessed to give than to receive has been settled long ago by dictum. But it is difficult to say which is more conducive to an inner glow—when the token is an Ovington's.

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## Hot Day Explodes Powder

## 6,000 Pounds Blow Up in Plant

## Near Wilmington; None Hurt

WILMINGTON, Del., March 20.—The blending house of the United States Flashless Powder Company's plant at Carroft, near here, was destroyed today by an explosion of 6,000 pounds of a new blend of powder being prepared for the United States navy. No one was in the vicinity.

The damage was estimated by Ernest du Pont, president of the company, at \$25,000. Mr. du Pont said he believed today's sudden rise in temperature was partly responsible.

## 300 Rotary Clubs

## Begin Inquiry Into Care of Veterans

## Will Gather Evidence in All Parts of Country to Learn if Charges of Neglect of Disabled Are Well Founded

INDIANAPOLIS, March 20.—A nation-wide survey of conditions surrounding the care of disabled World War veterans has been begun by the 800 Rotary clubs of the country, according to a letter received at the American Legion's national headquarters here from Chesley H. Perry, secretary of the Rotary clubs' association.

The purpose of the survey, says the letter, "is to prove whether American Legion reports are based on hysteria or upon actual facts." In making the survey, it is to be proved whether American Legion reports are based on hysteria or upon actual facts.

The letter of Mr. Perry, as given out by the Legion, follows:

"The 50,000 American business and professional men who form the 800 Rotary clubs of the United States have started out to gather the actual facts in their respective communities with regard to the manner in which the United States government is handling the cases of disabled ex-soldiers. The disclosures made by the American Legion regarding the rehabilitation of Uncle Sam's disabled ex-service men."

Each Rotary club is appointing a special committee to investigate conditions in its community and report to the club. Every club will then report to the headquarters office or Rotary in Chicago. The result will be that from 800 communities in every part of the United States will come evidence of business and professional men to prove to the American people whether or not the American Legion reports are based on hysteria or upon actual facts.

Directed by "Al" Van Zandt, famous as a producer with the 27th Division, members of the minstrel troop of Leroy S. Mead Post, of Closter, N. J., gave a minstrel show last Friday night.

Tiger Post meets on March 30 at 170 East Sixtieth Street.

The auxiliary of Willard A. Balcom admitted three new members at the last meeting. This unit is anxious to get a piano for the patients in the ward they have "adopted" at Fox Hills.

Arthur Viens Post's auxiliary will give a euchre and dance on the evening of March 30. There will be prizes for both players and non-players.

Belvidere Brooks Post's basketball team continues its unbroken string of victories. The post's fifteenth consecutive victory was over William E. Irwin Jr. Post five by a score of 40 to 11. Games are wanted. Communicate with Raymond W. Small, 174 West 100th Street.

Miss Marion Griffin has been awarded a gold wrist watch by Barbara Fritchie Post for gaining the most new members for that unit. At that time she announced her engagement to a former Legion official.

Gwynn Post will be addressed at its meeting Wednesday night at the McAlpin Annex by M. Eugene Amyon, national commander of the French War Veterans.

Brooklyn Post is leading in the Kings County Legion bowling tournament with fourteen games won and two lost. E. J. Bell and Alfred Wilson posts are the runners-up.

Captain Bates, formerly of Company A, 60th Infantry, is asked to communicate with Carl H. Thomas, Box 55, 25 Church Street, Merrimac, Mass.

## Harding Visits Army Hospital, Hunting Way to Aid Wounded

## President and Wife Invite Crippled Veterans to Call on Them at White House; Ask How They Can Benefit Them

WASHINGTON, March 20.—President Harding combined an errand of mercy with a first-hand study of one of his administrative problems today by spending more than two hours among the wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Hospital.

Accompanied by Mrs. Harding and Dr. C. E. Sawyer, his personal physician, whom he has charged with an investigation of the general problem of public health and social welfare, the President looked through the wards and entertainment rooms of the hospital, greeting scores of the patients and asking them what could be done to make them more comfortable.

In a short talk from the front steps of the administration building he told an assemblage of patients and nurses that he wanted to see a government policy that should fully recognize what the soldiers of the great war gave to their country, and later at the Red Cross hut he made a speech praising the services of women in the winning of the war.

The question of proper hospital facilities and medical attention for wounded soldiers is one which has been much in Mr. Harding's mind since his election. During today's visit he obtained many details of hospital administration. Among other things he studied the vocational training system for the wounded, and Mrs. Harding brought away as a souvenir of the

of the spot, and could only say it was thereabouts, he thought, and that these alterations were confusing.

Canon Benham, who knew Dickens's London very well, said it was "beyond a doubt" that the Old Curiosity Shop was in Fetter Lane, and had been removed a few years before—in 1891, we believe. Still more positively is Robert Alibut, who has thoroughly explored Dickens land in every lane and byway. Among his friends was a lady who was up to the sale of curiosities, and Dickens localized it as the home of Little Nell and her grandfather, pointing to an inner room—divided from the shop by a partition, where the girl had slept. The room was kept by a deaf, elderly man named Samuels, with whom Dickens used to take an occasional glass of port.

But, the lover of the legend will say, the inscription, "The Old Curiosity Shop, immortalized by Charles Dickens," Quite so, but this is said to have been put up by a bookseller who "liked Dickens" and thought the name of the book would fit his shop. Yet this may be a legend also.

**Three Missing in Fire**  
EMPORIA, Kan., March 20.—Three persons are missing as the result of a fire which completely destroyed the Hotel Whitley today. Several persons were severely burned and others suffered injuries when they fell from upper stories of the building. Jack Fisher, a wrestler, fell three stories when a rope burned in two, but was uninjured. Ed Warner, Fisher's manager, jumped three stories and landed uninjured on the wrestler's back. The damage is estimated at \$100,000.

The old house had long ago been pulled down, and a fine broad road was in its place. At first he would draw with his stick a square upon the ground to show them where it used to stand. But he soon became uncertain

"Concerning the authenticity of the Portsmouth Street shop I hold an opinion similar to that held by Betsey Prig as to the existence of Mrs. Harris. I don't believe there's no such a person."

There is also the authority of Dickens himself, who describes how Kit would take his children to the street where his mistress had lived, only to find that new improvements had altered it so much that it was not like the same.

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## Newly Discovered Solvent Dissolves Rubber and Enamel

## Liquid Called Selenium Oxide Also Removes Paint, Varnish and Shellac Without Injuring Wood

LINCOLN, Neb., March 20.—Now properties of a liquid described before the students of the department of chemistry of the University of Nebraska show that it almost realizes the dream of the alchemists of old who sought the universal solvent.

As described by Dr. Victor Lenher, professor of chemistry at the University of Wisconsin, who has come here to deliver a series of addresses on the subject, further tests have shown that selenium oxychloride, as the solvent is called, is more powerful even than was indicated in his preliminary announcement made before the American Chemical Society.

It dissolves rubber, glues, enamels, hydrocarbons and many other substances which hitherto have been regarded as most resistant to all chemical agencies except fire.

Such products as rosin, bakelite and condensate, which are used as substitutes for amber in the making of tobacco pipes and for many other industrial purposes, and until now have been regarded as insoluble in all known solvents, are readily dissolved by selenium oxychloride, according to its use ordinary paints, varnishes and shellacs can be removed from furniture and carriages and other objects without injuring the wood, and enamels can be taken from automobiles without affecting the steel body.

**Military Power in Solvent**  
"Its solvent powers are so vigorous," said Dr. Lenher, "that it will remove the bitumen from soft coal, but will not attack the pure carbon of anthracite."

Dr. Lenher also sees a military power in this powerful solvent, as it can be employed in making more porous charcoal, and until now have been regarded as insoluble in all known solvents, are readily dissolved by selenium oxychloride, according to its use ordinary paints, varnishes and shellacs can be removed from furniture and carriages and other objects without injuring the wood, and enamels can be taken from automobiles without affecting the steel body.

The use of activated charcoal in the extraction of gasoline from natural gas is one which is interesting chemists today, as it will tend to increase the supply of fuel for motor vehicles and still leave the gas available for household and industrial purposes. As a laboratory reagent, Dr. Lenher said that the properties of selenium oxychloride are so unusual that it is likely to come into common use wherever research is conducted.

**Used in Many Industries**  
The solvent, which formerly was regarded as merely a laboratory curiosity, is finding its place in many industries. The original statements concerning its exceptional powers have been amply verified, the speaker asserted, by him and a group of students who have been attracted to the laboratories of the University of Wisconsin during the last year.

The raw material from which it is obtained was once a waste product from the electrolytic refining of copper, for until recently the selenium from

these electrolytic slimes, while known to the chemist as a rare element, had been considered as almost valueless. The solvent itself is a heavy liquid, and nearly colorless. It can be readily handled in a commercial way, however, for were it the universal solvent of alchemy it could not be transported, as no vessel could withstand it. This discovery of everyday uses for a substance formed from discarded material is regarded by scientists as a typical illustration of the value of research.

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